

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1111

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James J. "Jim" Powell of Limestone.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of James J. "Jim" Powell; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed entrepreneur and philanthropist, Mr. Powell was a consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Jim Powell was born in Nashville on October 2, 1937, to Frances and Henry Powell and attended Bellevue High School, where he received a hardship scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT); and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Mr. Powell and his wife, Sandy, moved to East Tennessee, where he founded his business, Powell Construction Company; and

WHEREAS, known for exceptional work, the company diversified into different divisions, including steel erection, crane rental, electrical, manufacturing and design, and the building of coal preparation plants; offices were located in Johnson City, Knoxville, and Nashville, along with Beckley and Fairmont, West Virginia, and Sydney, Australia; and

WHEREAS, never forgetting the opportunity he was given to go to college, Jim Powell began his goal of paying forward in 1980 by funding scholarships at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) and UT; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, he founded the Powell Foundation, establishing scholarships in business, athletics, computer science, engineering, piano, jazz, bluegrass, and voice; to date, the scholarships have helped more than 4,000 students and will continue to support approximately 200 students per year for many years to come; he also led the initiative for ETSU and UT to become All-Steinway Schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Powell's philanthropic efforts left an indelible mark on his community, and he served on numerous boards of directors, including First American Bank, Hands On Museum, Boy Scouts Sequoyah Council, Johnson City Boys Club, Holston Home For Children, Crumley House Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center, ETSU Foundation, Johnson City Symphony, United Way, Munsey United Methodist Church Administrative Board, Junior Achievement of Tri-Cities Laureate Advisory Board, Tri-City Business Alliance, East Tennessee Angus Association, and ETSU Board of Trustees, along with various local and state contractor associations; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated professional, Jim Powell completed terms as Chairman of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Chairman of the Tennessee Business Roundtable, Chairman of the UT Development Council, and Chairman of the UT Institute of Agriculture Capital Campaign; he also served on a number of special committees, including the Tennessee State Capitol Renovation Committee, Washington County School Evaluation Committee, and Munsey Memorial Church Long Range Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, an active member of Munsey United Methodist Church, Mr. Powell was deeply devoted to his faith, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS in his free time, Jim Powell enjoyed his many hobbies, including raising registered Black Angus cattle, which were in the top 100 of the National Angus program; refurbishing and showing antique Farmall tractors; and chauffeuring family, employees, and friends on his bus to ball games, concerts, restaurants, and plays; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his devoted wife of sixty-six years, Sandy; sons, Jimmy (Sue) Powell, Mike (India) Powell, and Jeff Powell; grandchildren, Jennifer (Andy) Von der Heiden, Jay Powell, David Powell, Michael Lee Powell, Whitney Powell, Henry Powell, and Anna Powell; great-grandchildren, James Christian Von der Heiden and Mary Grace Von der Heiden; brothers, Richard Powell, Charles (Lila) Powell, and R.L. (Dottie) Powell; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Powell was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, George Powell; and his sister-in-law, Terry Powell; and

WHEREAS, Jim Powell leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James J. "Jim" Powell, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Powell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.